



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

June 24, 2005

H.R. 2385

A bill to extend by 10 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Government Reform on June 16, 2005

H.R. 2385 would continue authority for the Department of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program through 2015. Under the program, the department collects and publishes economic indicators of the performance of U.S. businesses. Based on information provided by the Department of Commerce, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$5 million in 2006 and \$26 million over the 2006-2010 period, subject to appropriation of the necessary funds. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 2385 contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 2385 would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in UMRA. The bill would extend by 10 years the authority of the Secretary of Commerce to conduct the quarterly financial report program that is set to expire on September 30, 2005. The program requires certain companies to provide survey information on their business and financial data to the Census Bureau. Extending this requirement would be a private-sector mandate on those companies. Based on information from the Census Bureau, CBO estimates that the direct cost to comply with the mandate would fall well below the annual threshold established by UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$123 million in 2005, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Melissa E. Zimmerman (for federal costs) and Paige Piper/Bach (for the private-sector impact). The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.